

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 23 remain pending in the present application. Claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 12 and 15 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

Objection to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to the claims for several informalities. The claims have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections. Applicants believe the claims to now be in proper order to overcome the Examiner's objections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lew. The Examiner alleges that Lew discloses Applicants' invention.

Claim 1 defines a reciprocating saw which has a substantially planar carrier slidably disposed in the housing. The carrier has a first portion defining a channel adapted to receive the saw blade.

The Lew reference, cited by the Examiner, fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. The Lew reference illustrates saw blade carriers 4 and 5 which have semi-circular cross sections. Also, Lew includes locking pins 17 and 18 which snap into a pair of holes in the saw blade. See column 2, lines 11 through 34. Thus, the Lew reference fails to disclose or suggest a substantially planar carrier as well as a channel to receive the saw blade. Accordingly, Lew fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 1 to be patentably distinct over the art

cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claims 2 through 10, which depend from Claim 1, to be patentably distinct over the Lew reference.

Claim 11 defines a carrier member having a first portion defining a channel adapted to receive a saw blade. The channel includes a base defining a second plane.

As mentioned above, the Lew reference fails to disclose or suggest a channel which includes a base portion defining a plane. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 11 to be patentably distinct over the Lew reference. Likewise, Claims 12 through 19, which depend from Claim 11, to be patentably distinct over the Lew reference.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 11 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) alleging them to be anticipated by the Lai reference.

Claim 11 has been amended to further define the carrier member to have a first portion defining a channel adapted to receive the saw blade. The channel includes a base defining a second plane. The channel receives the saw blade so that the first plane is parallel to the second.

The Lai reference, relied on by the Examiner, fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. Lai illustrates a flat yoke 6 which neither discloses nor suggests the channel claimed by Applicants. Thus, the Lai reference fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 11 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Claim 16 depends from Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants believe the above remarks to apply to Claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claims 12 through 19, which depend from Claim 11, to be patentably distinct over the Lai reference.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai in view of Armstrong.

As mentioned above, the Lai reference fails to disclose or suggest the channel claimed by Applicants. Lai neither discloses nor suggests a unitary channel formed in the portion as claimed by Applicants. Thus, the Lai reference fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention.

The combination with Armstrong, likewise fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. Armstrong, like Lai, includes a clamping member which is additionally secured to the yoke to retain the blade on the yoke. This is unlike the channel claimed by Applicants. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 1 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claim 9, which depends from Claim 1, would be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

Claim 18, which depends from Claim 11, is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Examiner's combination. As mentioned above with respect to Claim 11, the Lai reference fails to disclose or suggest a channel. The combination with Armstrong fails to remedy the deficiencies of the Lai reference. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 18 to be patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants believe Claims 1 and 11, as well as their dependent Claims 2 through 9 and 12 through 19, respectively, to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

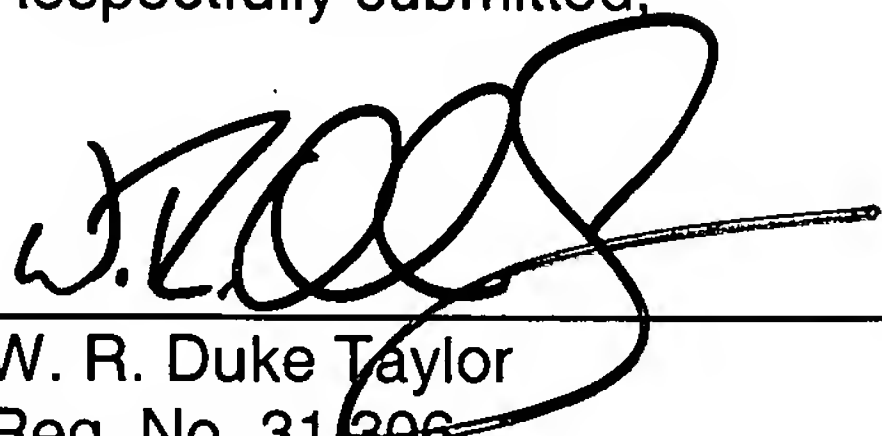
In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully

request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at her earliest possible convenience.
Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, she should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 11, 2005

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